United Nations A/53/203

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 July 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Items 46, 59, 106 and 113 of the provisional agenda*

Fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council and related matters

Advancement of women

Human rights questions

Note verbale dated 28 July 1998 from the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to enclose a communiqué from the Mission to the States Members of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea would be grateful if the Secretary-General could have the communiqué circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 46, 59, 106 and 113 of the provisional agenda.

New York, 28 July 1998

* A/53/150.

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Annex

Communiqué of the Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the States Members of the United Nations

As the United Nations is reviewing the twentieth century and working out ways and means to meet new challenges in the twenty-first century, it should not look away from the problem of Japan's liquidation of its past, which has remained unresolved for more than half a century.

In the past, Japan occupied other countries illegally and inflicted immeasurable suffering and misfortune upon them, but it has never apologized or offered compensation for its crimes.

Despite this, Japan is now aspiring to permanent membership in the Security Council. This is a mockery and an insult to the international community.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations, recognizing that it is important for the States Members of the United Nations to pay due attention to the problem of Japan's liquidation of its past, a problem which will pose a new challenge for the twenty-first century, issues the present communiqué.

– Japan committed the extra-large crimes unprecedented in history during its illegal occupation of Korea in the first half of the twentieth century.

Japan fabricated the "Ulsa Five-Point Treaty" in 1905 and "Jongmi . 'oint Treaty" in 1907 and enforced a colonial predatory policy in Korea for 41 years. It is a fact well known to the world that those treaties, which were proved to be false documents without endorsement of a Korean king, were unilaterally concocted and promulgated by Japan.

During its colonial rule, Japan kidnapped and drafted 6 million young and middle-aged Koreans forcibly and used them as tools for its aggressive war and went so far as to kill most of them, thus committing inhuman crimes which can by no means be pardoned.

Its barbaric crimes also included bringing nearly 200,000 Korean women as "comfort women" for the imperial army and trampling on them in the prime of their lives and massacring them.

Moreover, Japan had attempted to obliterate the national culture and also plundered hundreds of billions of dollars worth of gold, silver, mineral, coal, grain, livestock and cultural assets.

The gravity of the crimes and the dimension of the damage caused by Japan during its past colonial rule in Korea are unprecedented indeed.

– Japan refuses even to admit its past crimes and attempts to justify the aggressive history.

In the post-war 50 years, high-ranking Japanese Government officials have continued to speak about justifying past crimes.

A former Japanese Minister of the General Affairs Agency made reckless remarks to the effect that Japan had enforced its colonial rule over Korea in order to do good things for the latter because Korea was weak at that time. And former Japanese Minister of the Environment Agency said that the Pacific War was not aggressive but led to Asian countries' independence from colonial rule.

Japan's trick of beautifying and embellishing its past crime finds expression in the problem of "comfort women".

Japan resorts to every conceivable scheme to escape State responsibility for the crimes which it committed upon the "comfort women".

Worse still, Japan has recently shown in public a film praising Hideki Tojo, who was executed as a most notorious criminal, so as to incite the ambition of overseas expansion.

– Japan should make an apology and give full compensation for its past crimes against our people.

Japan's apology and full compensation for its past crimes is not a matter that can be skipped over and left unresolved.

Our people have the legitimate right to obtain an apology and compensation from Japan for the damage they suffered in the past.

Japan has been creating artificial difficulties in past Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan talks as well as in the recent Democratic People's Republic of Korea-Japan contacts, thus disrupting the talks, which had been so difficult to organize, and continuing its hostile attempt to isolate and stifle our Republic.

This is nothing but a crafty trick by Japan to maintain its hostile policy against our country and reveals an ulterior intention not to make any apology or compensation to us.

It is a requirement of international law that an assailant apologize for his crime and compensate the victim. Accordingly, only when Japan does so will it be discharging its political, legal and moral responsibilities.

The experiences of Germany and other defeated nations in the post-war period showed that, only when they departed from the past by making apologies and due compensation for their aggressive actions was it possible for them to take a new road to development

Therefore, Japan's apology and full compensation for past crimes can be a criteria for determining whether Japan has committed itself not to repeat its past crime or not. On the contrary, failure to apologize and compensate for its past crime is nothing but an implication that past crimes will be repeated.

– The United Nations will have to make Japan apologize and give full compensation for the past crimes it committed against our people.

In view of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, the United Nations assumes important responsibilities for making Japan liquidate its past and preventing the resurgence of Japanese militarism and ambition for overseas expansion.

The Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session appointed a Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women with mandates to submit a report, on an annual basis, calling for a full investigation into the "comfort women" and compensation. We believe that this is a significant step enabling the United Nations to recognize and put into question the unresolved problem of "comfort women" of Japan.

Japan, while failing to make a clean slate of its past, is now seeking a permanent seat on the Security Council. This is a grave challenge to the United Nations Charter and to international justice.

If Japan is allowed to become a permanent member of the Security Council simply because it is one of the large financial contributors, it will be the same as tacit recognition of Japan's past crimes and, furthermore, will encourage Japan to become a military power.

Therefore, we hold that the United Nations should pay due attention to Japan's refusal to liquidate its past rather than discussing its permanent membership in the Security Council. If necessary, measures should be taken to discuss the problem of Japan's past crimes at the General Assembly or to bring it to the attention of the International Court of Justice.

UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/204
29 July 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Fifty-third session
Items 20, 33, 45, 65, 96 and 105
of the provisional agenda*
STRENGTHENING OF THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS, INCLUDING SPECIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES
THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY - PREVENTION OF THE VIOLENT DISINTEGRATION OF STATES
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION
INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

Letter dated 22 July 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Declaration on the development and further strengthening of cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, signed by Mr. Askar Akayev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, and Mr. Emomali Rakhmonov, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, on 6 May 1998 at Bishkek.

* A/53/150.

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda items 20, 33, 45, 65, 96 and 105.

[Signed]

Zamira ESHMAMBETOVA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Kyrgyz Republic
to the United Nations

[Signed]

Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
of the Republic of Tajikistan
to the United Nations

ANNEX

Joint Declaration on the development and further strengthening of cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan

The Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan,

Relying on the historical ties between the two fraternal peoples and expressing their joint desire to elevate Kyrgyz-Tajik relations to a qualitatively new level,

Convinced that the strengthening of their traditional relations of friendship and good neighbourliness correspond to the fundamental interests of the two States and peoples,

Confirming the importance of the development of inter-State relations on the basis of the principles of sovereign equality,

Taking into account the constant aspiration of the two peoples to build democratic, law-based and secular States,

Stressing the importance of active participation in the economic integration process in Central Asia within the framework of the Treaty on the establishment of a single economic space in order to ensure the stable economic development of the Central Asian States,

Wishing to facilitate the further intensification of the process of establishing lasting peace, inter-ethnic harmony and stability in the Republic of Tajikistan,

Recognizing and observing the universally recognized norms of international law, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other documents,

Declare that:

They confirm their firm commitment to the development of the provisions laid down in the Treaty on the foundations of inter-State relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, of 12 July 1996,

They shall continue to develop bilateral relations actively and to maintain regular political dialogue and consultations at various levels on issues of joint interest,

They intend to continue work on the legal designation of the State border,

The future expansion and improvement of the work of the Kyrgyz-Tajik intergovernmental commission on the comprehensive review of bilateral issues is an important mechanism for the development and intensification of mutually advantageous bilateral cooperation,

They attach great economic, social and environmental importance to the water and energy resources of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, and confirm their readiness for constructive cooperation and coordinated activities in the rational utilization and protection of water and energy resources without prejudice to the national interests of both States,

They shall establish the necessary conditions for the further progressive development and intensification of bilateral economic cooperation in such promising areas as hydroelectric power, the mining industry, transit and transportation, agriculture and the processing of agricultural products, coordination in respect of industrial and financial cooperation, and also the use and protection of natural resources,

They shall consistently develop bilateral and regional cooperation, fulfil the obligations recognized under bilateral and multilateral agreements, and contribute to the strengthening of peace, security and socio-economic progress in Central Asia,

With the signing of the General Agreement on the Establishment of Peace and National Accord, the peace process in Tajikistan, despite the difficulties, is becoming stable and is making positive progress towards peace and national harmony.

The Kyrgyz Republic once again confirms its continued intention to provide support to the peace process in the Republic of Tajikistan and welcomes the desire of the Republic of Tajikistan to build a democratic, law-based and secular State,

They attach great importance to the need to develop cooperation in border districts as an important component of the problem of ensuring regional security and stability, and shall also promote practical cooperation among local authorities, law-enforcement bodies and non-governmental organizations in combating the illicit spread of narcotics and psychotropic substances, terrorism and organized crime,

Confirming their course of cooperation on vital issues of international and regional policy, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan have come out in favour of close cooperation in the United Nations, OSCE and other international organizations,

Assessing the situation in Afghanistan, they have noted the need for the further intensification of international efforts for a political settlement under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Republic of Tajikistan has once again expressed support for the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic to convene a peace conference on Afghanistan in Bishkek,

They shall promote the development of inter-parliamentary ties, cooperation and the exchange of information in the area of legislative activity, and the formation and functioning of democratic bodies.

The active development of multilateral cooperation between the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States will contribute to the improvement of cooperation in establishing a common economic space,

They recognize the need to strengthen the atmosphere of trust and mutual understanding between the peoples of Central Asia and oppose any manifestations of ethnic intolerance, political and religious extremism, or interference in each other's internal affairs.

They shall take measures to intensify cultural and humanitarian cooperation and shall promote the expansion of contacts between nationals of the two States and the establishment of the necessary conditions for the security and all-round development of education and the national culture of the Kyrgyz and Tajik diasporas in the territories of their States.

To these ends the heads of State intend to instruct the Governments of their States to draw up a long-term programme of exchanges in the area of culture, science and education.

The heads of State stress that cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan are based on a solid, friendly foundation, and declare their desire to develop and intensify bilateral relations in the interests of the peoples of both States.

Done at Bishkek on 6 May 1998.

For the Kyrgyz Republic:

[Signed]

Askar AKAYEV
President of the
Kyrgyz Republic

For the Republic of Tajikistan:

[Signed]

Emomali RAKHMONOV
President of the
Republic of Tajikistan

UNITED
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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/53/205
S/1998/711
4 August 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
Items 112 and 113 of the provisional
agenda*
RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION
HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 4 August 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have kept you abreast of the evolving situation in South Asia, which continues to deteriorate and which is becoming the cause of increasing concern for the international community.

In the wake of the nuclearization of South Asia, it has become imperative for both India and Pakistan to urgently and comprehensively address issues of peace and security, particularly those relating to nuclear and conventional restraint and stabilization, the avoidance of conflict and the adoption of confidence-building measures. The international community was unanimous in its view that the deterioration of the security situation in South Asia, and especially the more recent developments, were inescapably linked with the outstanding dispute of Jammu and Kashmir.

As you are well aware, Pakistan is committed to a meaningful dialogue with India on issues relating to peace and security in South Asia and the root cause of the tension between the two countries, namely, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Last month, the Prime Minister of Pakistan went to Colombo in the hope of a positive outcome from a bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart in the context of the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. In his inaugural address to the summit, the Prime Minister publicly announced Pakistan's willingness to resume a dialogue with India on the basis of the agreement reached between the two countries on 23 June 1997 at Islamabad.

* A/53/150.

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Unfortunately, the meeting in Colombo was fruitless. India was unwilling to discuss, with an specificity or urgency, the most important issues of peace and security, including confidence-building measures and Jammu and Kashmir, which the international community had been rightly urging should be addressed with positive action and without any loss of time. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries, who met in Colombo following the meeting of the two Prime Ministers, also failed to make any headway. The Indian effort has been to dilute the core issues by merging them with issues of far lesser significance in a so-called 'composite approach' to the bilateral dialogue. This is contrary to the understanding reached at Islamabad on the mechanism for the dialogue.

In view of the negative Indian approach to the resumption of the dialogue, Pakistan considers it appropriate to hand over the attached list of confidence-building measures for adoption by India, in order to reduce the tense situation in Indian-held Kashmir and to ameliorate the lot of the Kashmiris (see annex).

The situation has been further compounded by the recent unprovoked Indian artillery and gun fire across a broad front along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir, causing heavy civilian casualties and damage to property. This has worsened the overall situation considerably. We see this as a part of a pattern and regrettably, an intimidatory effort which cannot succeed. We are seriously concerned at a further possible deterioration, with unforeseeable consequences.

We believe that the international community should urge restraint upon India and counsel the resumption of dialogue. For our part, Pakistan is willing to immediately address issues of peace and security, including confidence-building measures and Jammu and Kashmir. We are also prepared to simultaneously agree on a calendar of meetings on all other issues on the agenda of the India-Pakistan dialogue as defined in the agreement of 23 June 1997.

I would like to reiterate that, in parallel with Pakistan's efforts to resume a meaningful dialogue with India, the United Nations should consider the following actions:

(a) A deeper engagement of the Secretary-General in resolving outstanding issues between India and Pakistan, and particularly the core issue of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) The strengthening of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and the regular submission of its reports to the Security Council;

(c) The appointment of a special representative of the Secretary-General on Jammu and Kashmir.

I trust that these suggestions will be given the careful examination and follow-up that is demanded by the tense situation in South Asia.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly under agenda items 112 and 113, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Confidence-building measures in Jammu and Kashmir

Proposed by Pakistan

We propose the following confidence-building measures with a view to bringing about a relaxation of tensions in Jammu and Kashmir:

(a) Strengthening of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) and its authority to patrol on both sides of the line of control, with regular reports to the Security Council;

(b) Release of Kashmiri detainees;

(c) Removal of Indian army pickets in Srinagar and other Kashmiri towns and villages;

(d) Phased reduction of Indian troops from the towns and villages of Indian-held Kashmir;

(e) Cessation of search/arrest operations;

(f) Transmission of information about missing persons in Indian-held Kashmir;

(g) Stationing of the International Committee of the Red Cross and United Nations human rights monitors in Indian-held Kashmir;

(h) Recognition of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference as a legitimate Kashmiri representative.

India should consider the above suggestions in the context of efforts towards addressing the Jammu and Kashmir issue, which is the core problem between Pakistan and India.

United Nations A/53/206

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 August 1998

Original: English

Fifty-third session
Item 72 (g) of the provisional agenda*
General and complete disarmament: relationship between disarmament and development

Relationship between disarmament and development

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. Since 1987, the General Assembly has annually requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the action programme adopted by the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development, which was held at United Nations Headquarters in September 1987.[1] The action programme outlined a multisectoral mandate demanding close cooperation between the economic and political sectors of the Secretariat.[2] In pursuance of those requests, the Secretary-General has submitted 10 reports. The first three of these reports (A/44/449, A/45/592 and A/46/527) describe the activities undertaken in implementation of the action programme by the Secretariat in which the Department for Disarmament Affairs played a coordinating role. The fourth and fifth reports (A/47/452 and A/48/400), submitted under severe resource constraints on the Centre for Disarmament Affairs, called attention to the changing international context. The sixth report (A/49/476) after providing an overview of United Nations involvement in the subject and highlighting the latest trends, asked for further guidance from the Member States. In the seventh and eighth reports (A/50/388 and A/51/207) it was pointed out that submission of further reports would depend upon a review and evaluation of the action programme by Member States in the light of a changing international situation.

2. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 51/45 D of 10 December 1996, the General Assembly invited Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme, as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the action programme. No communication was received by the Secretary-General. This was reflected in the ninth report to the General Assembly (A/52/228), which also repeated the earlier request of the seventh and eighth report that,

* A/53/150

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in the absence of further guidance from Member States, there were no new developments to report.

3. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 52/38 D of 9 December 1997, the General Assembly again invited Member States to communicate to the Secretary-General their views and proposals for the implementation of the action programme as well as any other views and proposals with a view to achieving the goals of the programme, within the framework of current international relations. No communication was received by the Secretary-General.

4. In paragraph 4 of resolution 52/38 D, the Secretary-General is requested to continue to take action, through appropriate organs and within available resources, for the implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference. The present report is submitted in pursuance of paragraph 5 of resolution 52/38 D, which requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

II. Actions taken

5. Paragraph 35 (ix) d of the action programme recommends that the ongoing work of the United Nations for a systematic examination of various problems of defining, reporting and comparing military budget data should be intensified. This recommendation is being carried out in the framework of General Assembly resolutions on "Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures" in accordance with a standardized instrument of reporting developed in 1980. In order to promote wider participation by Member States, not more than 35 of which are currently providing information to the United Nations by using the standardized instrument, the Secretary-General has been holding occasional consultations with other international agencies and regional bodies which also receive reports on military expenditures by national Governments. The latest of such consultations were held at the United Nations Headquarters on 23 April 1998. Specific recommendations to promote wider participation in the reporting instrument are given in details in the Secretary-General's report to the current session of the General Assembly in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 52/32 of 9 December 1997 on objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures.

6. In pursuance of paragraph 35 (ix) b of the action programme, the Secretary-General had established a high-level interdepartmental task force to foster and coordinate the incorporation of disarmament-development perspective in the activities of the United Nations system. The task force had the following composition: the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation; the Under-Secretary-General, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General, Department of Public Information; the Assistant Secretary-General, Office for Research and the Collection of Information; and the Under-Secretary-General, Department for Disarmament Affairs.

7. The Task Force determined the political priorities for, and oversaw the operational activities in, the interrelated aspects of disarmament and development in two phases. During 1987–1990, the emphasis was on the undertaking of activities by the Secretariat in three broad areas: monitoring trends in military spending; promoting collective knowledge of non-military threats to international peace and security; and facilitating an exchange of national experiences in conversion from military to civilian fields. During 1990–1993, greater attention was devoted to expanding networks of contacts with national and international

bodies so that the United Nations could act as a catalyst by providing information, guidance and expertise.

8. In paragraph 2 of his report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session (A/47/452), the Secretary-General stated that the composition of the high-level Task Force would be reviewed in the light of the organizational changes in the Secretariat. Since then, the Department for Economic and Social Affairs has undertaken a study of trends and issues in international arms trade and an evaluation of the consequences of reductions in military spending. It intends to continue addressing issues such as determinants, levels and socio-economic consequences of military expenditures.

9. Bearing in mind the restructuring of the political and economic sectors of the Secretariat, the following composition is now proposed for a high-level steering group on disarmament and development: the Under-Secretary-General for the Department for Disarmament Affairs; the Under-Secretary-General for the Department for Economic and Social Affairs; and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. As earlier, the Department for Disarmament Affairs would continue to be responsible for coordination and substantive servicing of the Steering Group and would act as the focal point for disarmament and development in the Secretariat.

10. To follow up on the recommendation in paragraph 35 (ix) e of the action programme, the Department for Disarmament Affairs is exploring the possibility of organizing periodic workshops to undertake analyses of the impact of global military expenditures on the world economy. In view of the continuing financial constraints on the Organization, this proposed activity would become more affordable with voluntary contributions by Member States.

Notes

[1] See *Final Document of International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development*, New York, 24 August–11 September 1987 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.87.IX.8).

[2] See paragraph 35 of the Final Document cited above.